

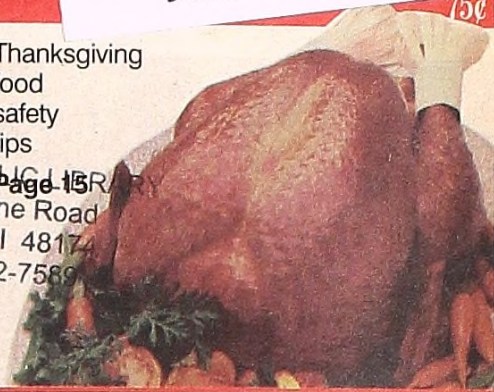
THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 119, No. 47

News you can use, news you can trust

Thanksgiving
food
safety
tips

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A show of warmth

Public Service Credit Union in Romulus helped the American Red Cross begin the holiday warmth campaign last week at the Merriman Road location by filling a bus with new blankets. Michigan Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, above, hands a blanket to Bryan Peckinpaugh, the marketing director for the Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross. Credit union employees (right) line up to donate blankets.



Neglected houses to be razed

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Efforts to rectify troubles related to abandoned and uninhabitable buildings is paying off for Romulus this year.

The Romulus City Council approved the demolition of six residential homes last week due to owner neglect. The properties, 34945 Bibbins, 29094 Ecorse, 11389 Gabriel, 11239 Hunt and 9784 Lisa, are all scheduled for demolition unless an injunction is secured from the circuit court.

One property, 6837 Middlebelt, was removed from the list due to evidence produced by the owner demonstrating that permits had been secured to rehabilitate the dwelling.

Another request to let bids for a demolition contractor was unanimously approved by council members.

"It's good to be able to take down some of these buildings," said Mayor Alan Lambert, who made blight a major issue when he was elected. "It used to be that, when you drove down Wayne Road all the way to downtown, you'd see about 20 abandoned buildings, and that isn't good."

To date, city blight efforts have paved the way for about 150 abandoned buildings to be removed, Lambert said.

"Having the buildings there interfered with re-development efforts," Lambert said. "People who want to build go where there's a nice environment. I think it is starting to make a difference for us."

Abandoned structures were also a harbinger for crime, the mayor said.

"We wanted to take them down because people would go inside them and do God-knows-what, and we didn't want that to continue."

There is an extensive legal process in place that must be followed before a building can be demolished.

The city must show the building is in violation of existing codes, and is a danger to people

City enacts new decency rules

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Businesses that sell materials perceived to be sexually-explicit or adult-oriented will be asked to adhere to some new provisions.

Romulus City Council members unanimously approved an ordinance that would require retailers to keep adult videos, magazines and other materials out

of the common view, and to use displays that cover any exposed genitalia.

The motion was proposed by Councilman William Crova and supported by Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.

Mayor Alan Lambert said the problem was not a huge one in the city, but that adult books and materials need to be kept out of the hands of children.

"Right now, the way it is, a kid can go into a business and look at adult magazines or books, and there's not much that can be done to stop it," he said. "They put covers over them, but kids can remove the covers. What this ordinance does is require businesses to place the items in a spot where kids can't get to them."

See **Explicit**, page 3

Impaired driver had previous record

The West Bloomfield man who police say killed a Romulus woman in an alcohol-related traffic accident last week apparently had his driving privileges revoked.

According to driving records provided by the Michigan Secretary of State office, Dannie Baker, 46, was previously convicted of alcohol-related offenses.

Baker is charged with causing a fatal accident in the City of Inkster in the afternoon hours of Nov. 9.

Marie Barron, 71, of Romulus, was stopped at a traffic light on Michigan Avenue at Henry Ruff Road in her Ford Focus at about 6:45 p.m. Nov. 9 when she was struck by a Ford Expedition driven by Baker. Upon impact, Barron's vehicle burst into flames, according to police.

She died later at the scene despite efforts by paramedics to save her life, police said.

Baker was treated for minor

injuries, and a blood test revealed he was driving under the influence of alcohol, police said.

Baker's first offense was in 1979. Baker's driving record indicated that, during the next several years, he was convicted at least six more times for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

In 1998, police stopped him while his license was suspended,

See **Death**, page 3

See **Demolition**, page 3

HAPPY Thanksgiving

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Multi-age class gives students diverse education

On a typical day, the new Romulus multi-age classroom operates a little like a space age one-room schoolhouse.

The class, which is part of a pilot curriculum at Merriman Elementary School, designed around the Federal 'Reading First' Literacy program. First, second and third graders all learn in a one-class setting.

"This is a lot different from the split classes where a teacher would spend half her time with first graders and then spend time with the second graders," school principal Kay Williams said.

"Here the teacher spends the same amount of time with all the students. This is really a benchmark program. It's very strategic and learning intensive. And the children love it."

The class, taught by first year teacher Hannah McNamee, is based loosely on the idea of a small, working village, beginning each day with a 'Township Hall' meeting, where all the students gather in the morning to learn basic number skills and dates. Afterward, the students split into learning groups specific to either their skill or grade level, some working on miniature Macintosh computers, or gathering around the interactive "Smart" board where students can choose the right answer with the

touch of a hand.

They're named the experimental classroom a MacVile Community, and it's a far cry from the days of blackboards, chalk erasers and weeklong forays down that dusty Oregon Trail.

"The idea behind the multi-age classroom really isn't completely new, if you think of the old one-room school houses," District Superintendent Carl Weiss said.

"This program enables us to have flexible grouping. The curriculum isn't laid in stone based on age. Even within age groups, for instance, in kindergarten, there are those kids that don't want to leave Mom's side and some which are reading thesauruses. The ability here is that there is a chance for advancement, and those working at a lower level can work at a different pace."

McNamee, who teaches the class with the help of two or three para-educators, helped to design the curriculum with Williams. Originally McNamee said she was planning on teaching one single-age classroom.

"Of course at first I was thinking of teaching just one grade," McNamee said, with a laugh. "But I wouldn't have it any other way. It's really high energy and you're always doing something different

and I think, in the long run, it will make me a better teacher."

The Reading First Literacy program, part of President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind initiative, started in 2002, providing grants to states in need to ensure that all children would be reading at grade level by the third grade. Merriman Elementary was one of the first schools in the area to apply for and receive the grant. Although funding is distributed among all Merriman students, the extra funding enabled the school to develop a more technologically advanced program for the multi-age classroom, which Williams considers their "model classroom for technology."

Though the classroom began only this year, Williams says that initial data from the experiment is encouraging, and believes that the program will be successful because at their core, most grade levels seek to reinforce the same basic curriculum.

"Activities may have the same objective, say language skills, but at a higher level. So in first grade you may do a word study of 10 words. At the second grade level you would do a word study plus five words. At the third grade level you would do a word study plus five words and put them each in

a sentence. It's really just higher order thinking skills. All the students in the program are independent learners."

Jacob Wilkerson, one of the second graders in the classroom, said that what he likes most about the class is the morning township hall meeting, where a third grader helps him instruct his fellow students.

"I like the township hall because I can get to teach," Wilkerson said. "I like the calendar because I get to cover up stuff and all the other kids have to answer what day it is. I don't know, but I heard that Mrs. McNamee wants me to work with her."

Miryea Studivant, one of the program's third graders, said that what she likes most about MacVile is feeling like she's part of a family, and working with a variety of different students.

"It's fun because they explain stuff to us like fractions," Studivant said. "They let you have time and work with other people. It's like a community here."

Weiss believes that the multiage setting merely imitates the way children progress within their families and in daily life.

"In real life, kids play with and learn from other kids all the time," Weiss said.

"At home they don't only play with other first graders. Why should school be the only place that is so?"

News in brief

Romulus companies get grants

Two industrial businesses in Romulus were among three businesses that will receive Economic Development Job Training grants from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Future Tool and Saint Gobain Abrasives, both in Romulus, are among the 17 companies to receive training as part of the Manufacturing Competitiveness Program (MCP), an initiative to encourage collaboration between regional employers.

State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced the awards last week.

"The Downriver area has long been a hotbed of manufacturing, and this training will ensure that these established companies have a workforce ready for the 21st century," he said. "This grant will contribute significantly to both our regional and state economies and position these businesses as leaders for the future."

The goal of the MEDC grant program is to retain and attract businesses by helping businesses update worker training. Twenty employees and four new hires at Future Tool, and 70 employees at Saint Gobain Abrasives will be trained under the program.

Training awards are discretionary and require that businesses and training providers work closely with an MEDC account manager and workforce development specialist to develop an effective training plan.

Judge won't face gun charges

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Judge Sylvia James will face no charges stemming from an airport incident last summer when a handgun was found in her bag as she attempted to board a flight to Atlanta.

Washtenaw County prosecutors determined James, the chief judge of the 22nd District Court for more than 18 years, will face no criminal charges for the July 28 incident because there was no proof of intent to board the flight with the weapon.

"It is a requirement of state law that we prove there was knowledge; that she knew she was taking the gun on the airplane," said Konrad Siller, a Washtenaw County Prosecutor familiar with the case.

"When I reviewed the report, there was no proof of knowledge," he added. James from the

beginning has said she simply forgot the gun was in her purse.

Elliot Hall, a lawyer for James, said he more or less expected there would not be charges.

"She's been on the bench for 18 years, and we knew there was no intent behind this," he said. "We're glad this is over."

James was stopped at a passenger checkpoint by airport screeners at the McNamara Terminal as she prepared to board a flight. The gun was tucked in her purse, which is considered carry-on luggage.

Unloaded handguns can legally be taken onto airplanes in checked – but not carry-on – luggage, and must be declared by passengers before they board a flight. James told airport police investigators that she did not declare the weapon because she didn't remember it was in her purse.

Washtenaw County Prosecutors were assigned the case after Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy recused herself because of an existing professional relationship with the judge, and the fact that cases at the 22nd District Court often conclude at Wayne County Circuit Court.

James said she carries the gun for personal protection because there have been threats on her life, one of which took place the week before the airport incident. She could still face fines imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Professional sanctions by the Judicial Tenure Commission are also highly unlikely, given the fact that there are no charges, Hall said.

James, through her spokeswoman, Court Administrator Pam Anderson, declined to comment about the situation.

Demolition

FROM PAGE 1

in the immediate area. Landowners are given multiple opportunities to correct prob-

lems or rehabilitate buildings.

If the city and landowner cannot come to an agreement, and the city proceeds with demolition plans, the landowner can seek an injunction at court. Injunctions are granted if the landowner can make a case for

letting the structure stand.

Council chairman Randolph Gear said he was "very proud" of the owner of the Middlebelt property for attempting to bring the dwelling up to code.

Staff Writer Jennifer Busch contributed to this report.

Death

FROM PAGE 1

and his privileges were revoked until 2014, state records indicated.

Inkster Police Chief Gregory Gaskin said the accident was one of a handful of fatal traffic accidents in the city this year. He added that this particular case is difficult to fathom because of the number of arrests and convictions on Baker's record.

"The accident was tragic," he said. "Drunk drivers cause a lot of

fatal accidents – It's not a huge occurrence in the city, but it's the second (traffic fatality) that's happened this year."

Baker was charged last week in an out-county arraignment with manslaughter and driving under the influence, which are both felonies. If convicted, he could face 15 years behind bars.

Following an autopsy, Barron's exact cause of death will be detailed in a report expected in several weeks.

Nechole McClendon, the program director for Wayne County

Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapter, said the most tragic aspect of drunk driving accidents are that often times, an offender's previous driving record makes a fatality predictable.

"To have someone lose their life to a repeat offender like that is unacceptable," she said. "We've been lobbying for the ignition interlock system, which would make it harder for offenders to drive. The law is being considered in Michigan right now."

Baker will return to court for a pre-trial hearing on Nov. 21.

Explicit

FROM PAGE 1

Retailers that sell the merchandise – mainly gas stations and party stores – must now place books and magazines behind the counter or on a rack too high for children to reach, or place individual wrappers on publications, Lambert said.

There apparently haven't been any complaints lodged at city hall about the visibility of adult merchandise, but there were concerns at the Romulus Police Department that some magazines may be too accessible to children, said Lambert.

"The police department worked on it with the city attorney," he said. "We basically just want to cover ourselves – if we don't make sure the stuff is out of

the hands of kids, it could be said that we're not doing enough to protect kids . . . it needed to be stated in an ordinance, though."

The ordinance changes where adult media can be placed. Adult media is defined as sexually-explicit material, and does not include displays that may feature or provide information about contraceptives.

The ordinance will help law enforcement provide businesses with clear guideline to that effect, Lambert said.

State law prohibits the sale or rental of any adult media to persons younger than 18 years old, and requires persons whose age is in questions to show valid identification.

Businesses that don't comply with the new guidelines may be assessed a fine.

Staff Writer Jennifer Busch contributed to this report.

OPINION

Give what you can

Nancy Spencer, president of the Canton Goodfellows, summed up the current state of the economy with a chilling statement: "We've got people on our lists that used to help us out."

As we enter the holiday season, this will be a refrain that we will all hear more and more often: times are tough, the need has increased. Several groups are gearing up for their annual holiday charitable drives. The Goodfellows usually get the most ink, but there are also events like the Toys for Tots drive, organizations like the Northville Civic Concern, the Salvation Army, The Senior Alliance and the United Way that strive to get items to people in need, as well.

Many of us can't afford to give in the way we have in the past, but we don't necessarily need to. Spencer also said that if everyone merely gave \$1, all their needs would be met—and then some.

You can't buy a cup of coffee for a dollar these days. You can scarcely buy a loaf of bread with it. But with enough of your friends and neighbors, you can help out a family in need. It doesn't take a major commitment to make a major change in someone's life. So consider that when you approach a bell-ringer standing in front of a Salvation Army kettle; or see a volunteer holding up a newspaper to sell in the street or anyone seeking donations anywhere.

There's another thing we should all keep in mind: if everyone gives a little, we can help out a lot.

District did 'the right thing'

It's never an easy decision when school officials are forced to expel a student.

It goes against the very nature of what they are trying to do: prepare children for the future. It's not something they take lightly, nor should they.

Officials in the Van Buren Public School district had to take such drastic measures recently, though, when they expelled five students for displaying 'gang-related' activity. The issue stemmed from online photographs that depicted the youths with school identification cards, a variety of realistic-looking guns along with money and drugs. They were taken on school grounds, in limousines and off school grounds.

When we say school officials had to take such drastic measures that's exactly what we mean, too. It was a drastic measure and it had to be taken.

School officials would have been subjected to far more criticism had they seen the images and not acted on them. This is a dangerous, crazy world, one where the safety of our children is threatened almost daily. What would they have said to the remaining parents of the district if this incident had led to something else, something truly tragic?

In the wake of the high profile school shootings that have taken place sporadically across the nation, school officials have no other choice but to react strongly to these kinds of implied threats of violence. Schools are places where students need to feel safe—to be safe—in order to thrive. Sometimes to do that, you have to teach a harsh lesson and this lesson seems pretty basic enough: These are not things to joke around with. This is not an image that we want our young people to aspire to. This is not something that will be tolerated, even in jest.

The parents of these students have each threatened to file a \$1 million lawsuit because they said the district is overreacting to the situation. Where does one find parents like these? Hopefully they are in short supply. A much better reaction would be to take responsibility for one's child, to ensure that these kinds of things won't happen again. Who among us wants to see such ugliness in our schools?

See **Schools**, page 5



An apology is in order

Like many people, I jumped to a conclusion when I learned where to find the name and photo of the victim of the murder discovered in Northville Township.

It's hard not to wince when you hear the words: sex offender registry.

Like all other media outlets, I reported it, although I don't think I made it as prominent as some or sensationalized that fact.

Then we all learned more details, and were a little ashamed.

Because the truth of that incident is that it's something virtually anyone could have done. As a teenager, he fooled around with another, younger teenager, who family members said lied about her age. The age of the girl is what got him in trouble, and it earned him a label that for a time garnered more attention than his own horrible death.

This sad footnote on this even sadder tale is something that should scare every parent to death.

It's not so hard to believe that this kind of thing goes on every day. As parents, we try to do everything right. We urge caution. We talk about the consequences. We tell them they are too young. In the end, teens are teens and hormones are hormones. The Bible addressed this: the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak.

Under the current system, these teens are

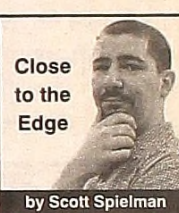
treated the same way as those who are a serious menace to our children. They're labeled and cast aside, often trying to live a normal life under a perpetual black cloud that makes employers or neighbors nervous.

This is a tremendous burden to place on a young person's shoulders. Perhaps it is a fact to include in sex education classes that preach abstinence: everyone is essentially one angry ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend away from being put on a list and labeled for life.

Including these kinds of offenses and other ones like, say, indecent exposure weakens the protection provided by the registry, too.

This legislation needs to be opened up and examined with a 21st century eye. There's no need to stigmatize teenagers this way. There should be different rules for under-aged offenders, additional circumstances considered. At the very least it should be considered like any other crime and wiped clean when the offender reaches adulthood, through the discretion of the presiding judge or prosecuting agency.

Until that happens, though, parents should take this chilling lesson to heart. It's always a difficult discussion to start—I hope I have a decade before I have to open one, but in reality I probably have less time—but the consequences are too large to ignore.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

A picture's worth 1,000 words

Social networking websites, like MySpace.com, have always sort of creeped me out. Turns out, I was right.

It's hard not to think about the recent slaying of the River Rouge man, which is linked, now, to the suspects' MySpace pages where hints at their real personalities could be found. However, I'm referring to the Belleville students who were recently expelled when photos of themselves brandishing guns, drugs and cash were touted on the popular web site.

I went on the Internet site today for some column research and what I found wasn't too shocking. Possibly because I've seen it before, but some of the headlines, pictures and postings people put there are strange. Some are just for shock value, some are sadly true and some are just plain stupid.

Yes, there are some people who use it for reminiscing about the good old days or meeting new friends and, maybe, even promoting themselves online for new jobs. But, on the flip side, there are others who create an artificial persona of someone they're not, someone they wish to be, or even someone they are, but can't reveal in their real life. The scary part is, how do you distinguish the truth over the Internet? Unless

you honestly know the person already, you can't. You have to take their web page at face value because on the Internet, people can be whoever they want to be.

I've never—and probably never will—had a MySpace, Facebook or any other web page of the sort. It's my personal preference, and if I want to talk with my friends, I call them on the phone. If I want to 'meet people' I do it in person, face-to-face. If I want to apply for a job, I just use my resume. If I wanted to talk to friends or people I knew back in the day, I would still be in contact with them. I wouldn't need to reach them through the web. I don't want everyone—and of course certain people in particular—knowing all of my business, all the time. Call me old fashioned, but 'social networking' websites just aren't for me.

I'm certainly not blaming MySpace or other websites for incidents like the Van Buren Public School District expulsions because with anything, there will always be people who abuse the system.

The students expelled at Belleville High School



King's Court

by Andrea King

JOURNAL

NEWSPAPERS

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See **Pictures**, page 5



This is one of the many pictures found on myspace.com that depicted five Belleville High School students who were expelled for gang related activity, intimidation and possession of 'look alike' weapons and drugs.

Pictures

FROM PAGE 4

are finding out the hard way the consequences of posting those pictures. Fake guns/drugs in the pictures or not, lawsuit or not, the Van Buren Public School District took the proper precautions they needed to in order to keep all students safe.

The lawsuit claims the teens' rights to freedom of expression were violated, they were denied equal protection and a right to education and they suffered defamation of

character. However, school officials said that Belleville High School identification cards were clearly pictured in the photographs, some of which were also taken on school property.

Parents of the teens also said these fake pictures were for a demo disk cover for their rap group. That's when I ask: Where are the values here and why aren't those concerns being addressed?

While images like guns, drugs and money may be popular symbols in the hip-hop and rap industry, are they really the best metaphors for a minors' rap group?

Probably not.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Seeking Re-Roofing and Siding Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for Housing Rehabilitation through the Community Development Block Grant Program on parcel number V125-83-053-01-0370-000 also known as 10037 Hamilton Court, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bid forms and work specifications are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 1:00 pm December 7, 2007 and should be submitted to the Clerks office. The bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 pm December 7, 2007. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid, is an equal opportunity employer. If you have any questions please contact Development Services, Pat or Jennifer at (734) 699-8913

Publish: November 21, 2007

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Seeking Housing Rehabilitation With Lead Interim Control Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for Housing Rehabilitation with Lead Interim Control through the Community Development Block Grant Program on parcel number V125-83-061-01-0235-000 also known as 46033 Chatsworth, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bid forms and work specifications are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 12:45 pm December 7, 2007 and should be submitted to the Clerks office. The bids will be publicly opened at 12:45 pm December 7, 2007. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid, is an equal opportunity employer. If you have any questions please contact Development Services, Pat or Jennifer at (734) 699-8913

Publish: November 21, 2007

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC WORKSHOP ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

The City of Romulus invites you to attend a public workshop on the updated Draft Zoning Ordinance to discuss the revisions before it is finalized.

The public workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485

A copy of the revised ordinance in its entirety may be viewed at the Planning Department between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Planning Department is located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 21, 2007

Rotary sells wreaths for Relay

The Belleville Rotary Club will once again sponsor a Christmas wreath, garland and centerpiece Sale.

All proceeds will go toward the Belleville Rotary Club Relay For Life team to benefit the American Cancer

Society. Advance orders can be placed during the month of November for pick up on Dec. 4 at the First United Methodist Church, located at 417 Charles St. in Belleville. Prices range from \$17-38. For more information, call (734) 461-2498.

Schools

FROM PAGE 4

It's our hope that these threats of litigation were spoken in anger and will be reconsidered. It would add insult to injury if they are allowed to proceed. This time around, it would be far better to

make a positive lesson out of this, to curtail that kind of activity once and for all and have the students apply for reinstatement next year. Losing a school year is unfortunate, but it is better than the alternative.

District officials should brace themselves for the lawsuits anyway, though, and take courage in the fact that they did the right thing.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Seeking Housing Rehabilitation With Lead Interim Control Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for Housing Rehabilitation with Lead Interim Control through the Community Development Block Grant Program on parcel number V125-83-053-03-0631-000 also known as 41511 Tompkins Street, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bid forms and work specifications are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 12:30 pm December 7, 2007 and should be submitted to the Clerks office. The bids will be publicly opened at 12:30 pm December 7, 2007. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid, is an equal opportunity employer. If you have any questions please contact Development Services, Pat or Jennifer at (734) 699-8913

Publish: November 21, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on December 4, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in accordance with guidelines for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Van Buren Township will hold a public hearing in order to receive comments from residents of the community on the proposed change to the Township's 2006-2007 Community Development Block Grant use of funds.

The proposed change is listed as follows:

Transfer of project 06-30-051-Public Safety to THE HAVEN DROP IN CENTER:
Transfer from the Public Safety category to The Haven Drop-in Center category Education Lunch & Recreation Programs.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: November 21, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL 46425 TYLER ROAD

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 to consider the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate in existing Industrial Development District #10 pursuant to Act 198, Michigan Public Acts of 1974, as amended for Die-Namic, Inc., 7565 Haggerty Rd., Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Following is the described parcel:

Part of: V125-83-046-99-0002-000 described as:

12L1A2 PT OF NW 1/4 SEC 12 T3S R8E BEG S 1D 45M W 275.59 FT AND S 86D 46M 20SEC E 60.02 FT FROM NW COR SEC 12. TH S 86D 46M 20SEC E 537.02 FT. TH S 4D 39M 43SEC W 146.67 FT. TH S 41D 34M 37SEC E 354.06 FT. TH N 86D 11M W 772.86 FT. TH N 1D 45M E 390.02 FT POB 5.48 ACRES

Written comments may be forwarded to the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. The exact legal descriptions are available for public review at the township offices during regular business hours.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: November 22, 2007
November 29, 2007

Finding a ‘Haven’

New center opens for middle-school students

Andrew Cipolla
Staff Writer

Students from South Middle School in Belleville will soon find themselves in the midst of a new after school opportunity.

For the first 30 students to sign up, the advantages of becoming a part of the Haven Drop-In Center are clear. Children from income qualified families will spend their after school hours in a state of the art facility taking part in various activities for \$3 a day.

“Once they come in here, they’re going to want to be here,” said Courtney Jenkins, director for the program, during an open house Oct. 22. According to Jenkins 200 families from South Middle School have been identified as income qualified.

The program will take place in the Life Empowerment Center

attached to Powers Center Church International in Belleville.

“As the name suggests we hope to offer a haven for kids after school,” said the Rev. Sarah Anderson, co-director. “The kids complain they don’t have anything to do...those are the hours they get into trouble.” Anderson said Haven will help fill those hours.

The Drop in Center consists of traditional after school activities like gym time and other games. Unlike similar programs, there is also tutoring, computer lab use and life skills training.

“So many after school programs are recreation,” said Robert Ficano, Wayne County executive and advocate of the program. “Many times being familiar with a computer and improving your school work becomes important.”

Participants in the program will be bused from South Middle



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, third from the right, stands with supporters, participants and coordinators for the Haven Drop-In Center open house Oct. 22.

School to the Life Empowerment Center after school hours. The program ends at 6:30 p.m.

The students will first be fed dinner and then split up into two groups. One group will spend 45 minutes doing homework, where tutors in all subjects will be available. The other group will participate in life skills training.

The life skills training consists of 18 units, which include “Self-image and Self-improvement”, “Substance use / Drug Abuse” and

“Social Skills”.

Jenkins said once 30 students sign up the program will begin. At this point, he said, it’s a matter of getting the word out to eligible families.

“I think it’s awesome, it gives the kids something to do,” said Doris Stafford, a parent. “It may even help [my son] out because he gets board.”

After taking a tour of the facilities at the open house, sixth grader Kenkaid Stafford only had two

words to say “excellent” and “awesome”.

The program is a partnership between Wayne County, Van Buren Public Schools, Powers Church International and Sevenfold Coalition Addressing Neighborhood Needs (SCANN).

SCANN is based in the tri-county area and was formed to provide children a safe supervised environment after school.

Anderson said that organizers are eager for the program to begin.

Superintendent of Van Buren Public Schools wins regional honor

The Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) has chosen Pete Lazaroff, of the Van Buren Public School District as Regional School Superintendent of the Year.

The Regional Superintendent of the Year award is presented by each of the nine regions of the MASA organization to an individual who has shown tremendous effort and dedication to enrich-

ing lives of children and the community as a whole.

Nominators said Lazaroff has led by example, developing Van Buren principals into the instructional leaders of their

buildings. As a result, all districts have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

“His programs—Root Cause Analysis and Dashboard Data—focus teachers on learners and

individual deficiencies and allow for quick interventions,” said Richard Repicky, region president. “Region 9 is proud to name Pete (Lazaroff) as Superintendent of the Year.

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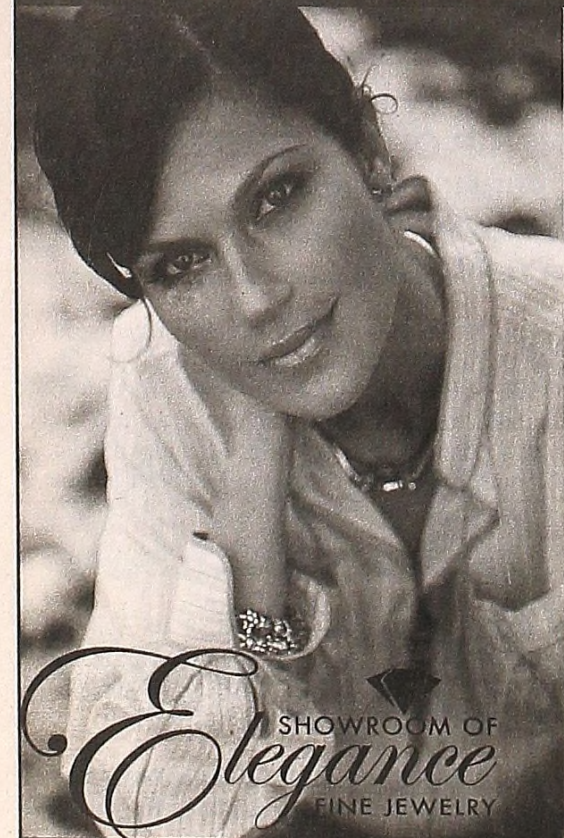
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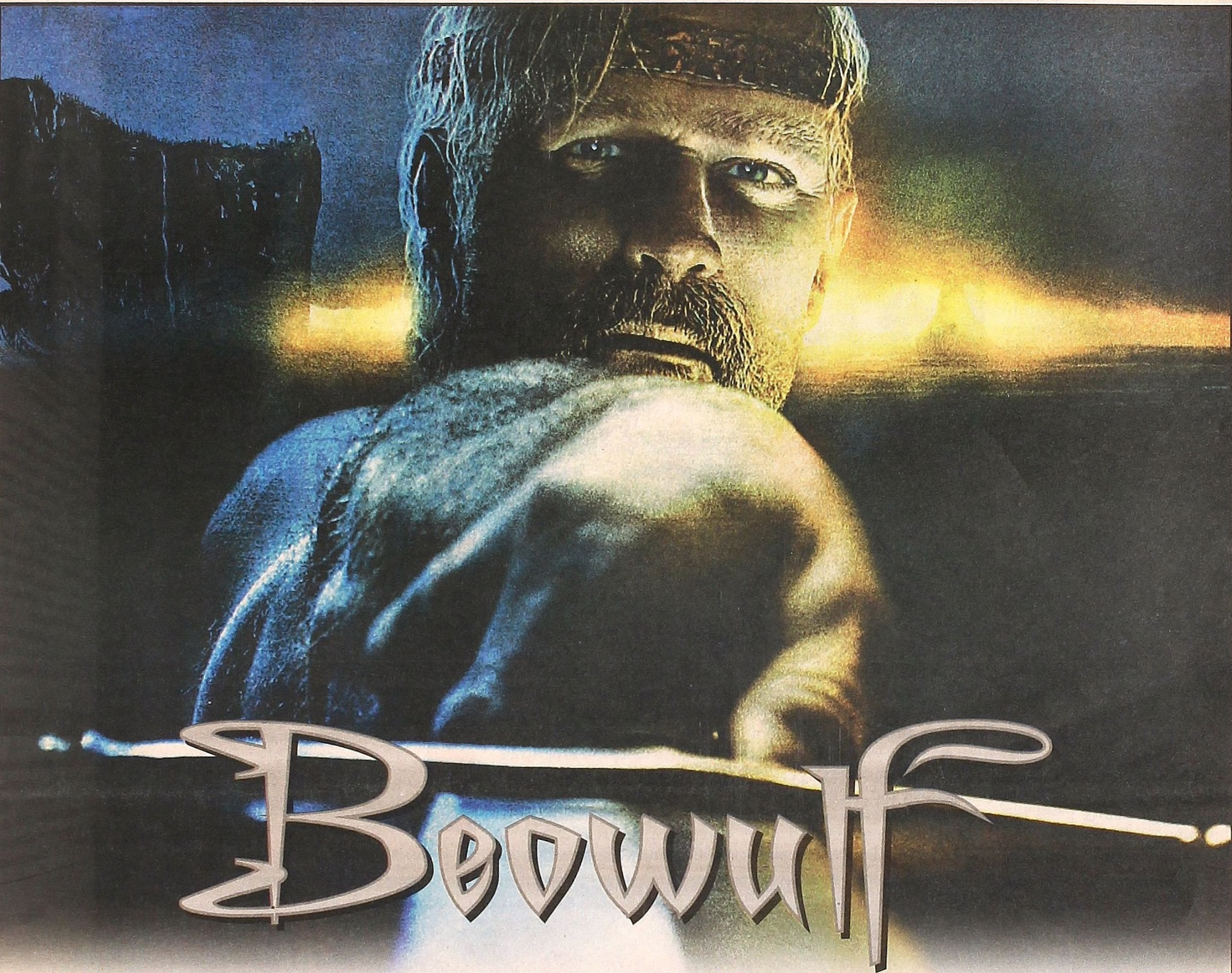
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THE SCENE



Retelling of ancient poem may be future of movie making

Eighth century English class never had it so good.

Beowulf, the epic animated drama by director Robert Zemeckis, of *Polar Express* fame, and graphic novelist Neil Gaiman, is a classic adventure tale. Filled with subtle moral undercurrents and erratic twists of fate, *Beowulf* is a surprisingly satisfying retelling of that almost indecipherable English poem—and the visuals are remarkable.

The story opens in Denmark, where a village is being terrorized by a demon named Grendel—the thing crashes down the doors to a new hall constructed by King Hrothgar (Anthony Hopkins) and interrupts the merry-making by slaughtering most of the people inside in gruesome fashion.

In the aftermath of the mayhem, Hrothgar orders the hall locked up and vows to give half his wealth and kingdom

to the man who can rid the country of the curse.

“What we need is a hero,” Hrothgar says.

Enter Beowulf (Ray Winstone), who crossed a storm tossed sea to come and kill the monster.

He makes good on his boasts and earns the entire kingdom for his deeds. He’s hailed as a savior, but his troubles are only just beginning—Grendel’s demon mother (Angelina Jolie) visits the castle during the night and exacts a terrible vengeance on almost all of Beowulf’s men.

Beowulf ventures to her lair seeking his own revenge but, in a moment of fateful weakness, allows himself to be seduced by her. Instead of killing her, as he has sworn to do, Beowulf makes a deal with the demon. She swears to leave his kingdom in peace, so long as Beowulf

leaves her his golden horn, and his unborn son.

Twenty years later when his half-demon son surfaces to once again terrorize the kingdom, Beowulf must face the hypocrisy of his own legend, and become the hero he never really was.

The visuals in this film are so distractingly good that initially the audience is tempted to forget the plot altogether, sorting out what does and doesn’t look real instead of watching the film at all.

Still, there is a lot of solid acting going on, with Winstone putting in an excellent performance as Beowulf, and Hopkins as the tormented King Hrothgar. John Malkovich also turns in a characteristically fleshed-out performance. Jolie is particularly convincing as she slithers around her watery underground lair with a tantalizing voice that oozes with the promise of untold pleasures. Poor

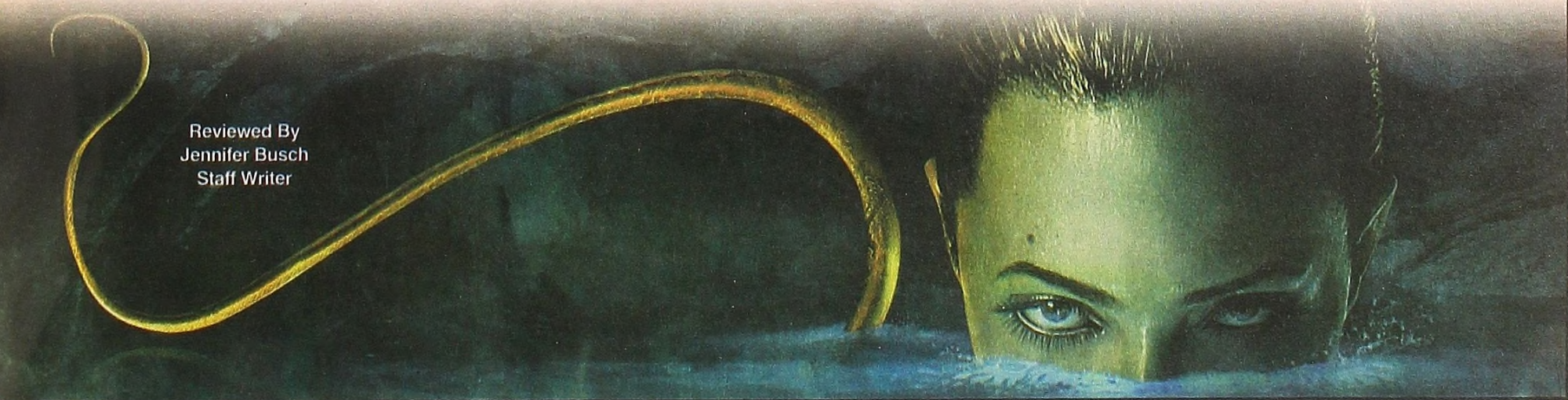
Beowulf never really stood a chance.

Ultimately, this is a story about middle-aged regret and redemption, about things done in the impetuosity of youth that must be confronted and overcome. Beowulf’s character resonates because he represents the hero in everyone who has ever tried set an ancient wrong to right.

The battle scenes make this film worth watching, though. The plot bogs down between them with dialogue that is uncharacteristically stilted considering the story was co-written by the critically acclaimed Gaiman (Sandman).

The computer generated battle scenes are breathtakingly realistic—even considering what is taking place—and should be seen on the silver screen to be truly appreciated. Live action film makers should take note and be afraid. ‘Beowulf’ may be the wave of the future.

Reviewed By
Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer



THE SCENE

Star struck

Local students movie wins trip to Hollywood, cash

Andrew Cipolla
Staff Writer

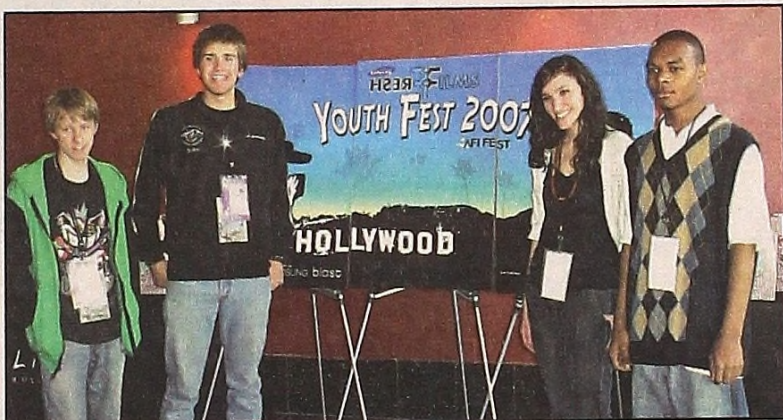
Two Plymouth-Canton high school seniors had a brush with Hollywood recently. The students, seniors in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park advanced video production class, just returned from a trip to California they won along with a \$1,000 grant, for a video they produced last year.

Lucas Seibel, Plymouth High School senior, and Ian Glodich, Salem High School senior, submitted their film "Jenny Doesn't Know" to the Fresh Film Blast Off Creativity program. The program is sponsored by the Samsung Corp.

"I think it's very exciting because we can use this to build on what we are able to learn, it feels really good to help out our school,"

On Saturday, Chris Gore, independent film speaker and writer, presented Seibel and Glodich with their award. Theirs was one of only five other scholarships that were awarded.

"It felt good because we know our class really needs the money because we really need the equipment," Glodich said. "It also felt good to go up there and



Plymouth-Canton Educational Park students Ian Glodich and Lucas Seibel stand with other film award winners during the Youth Fest 2007 celebration in Los Angeles.

get an award for our filmmaking." Glodich helped out with the sound and technical work.

Their film, meant to be a thriller, tells the story of a high school girl named Jenny who, three days before a college placement exam, is being stalked. Her stalker is placing pictures with her face scraped out around the school. Janet Sutherland, who teaches the Advanced Video Production class wrote the script.

"I think [the students] are learning anything is possible if you really put your mind to it just like winning this grant," Sutherland said. "When I created the script for them last year...it just kind of came together."

Seibel and Glodich have plans

to continue in the film business. As seniors they are looking into colleges that will fit their needs. They both agree Sutherland's class really taught them a lot.

"I think it's provided a lot of opportunities," said Seibel. "It provides school time and we can work with our peers who are interested in the same thing. It lets us read a lot of books that we wouldn't get a chance to buy." Sutherland said Seibel has read most of the 25 books on filmmaking in her small library.

"It gives us a lot of experience we wouldn't be able to get anywhere else," said Glodich. "It's really helped us get real life experience as if we're already in the field, in a classroom environ-

ment."

For the next production the students are working on a spin off of "High School Musical" titled the "Senior Musical". They hope to begin filming this winter.

"These kids are just really great and really talented," Sutherland said. "It's really fun working with them and I look forward to seeing where they are in four or five years."

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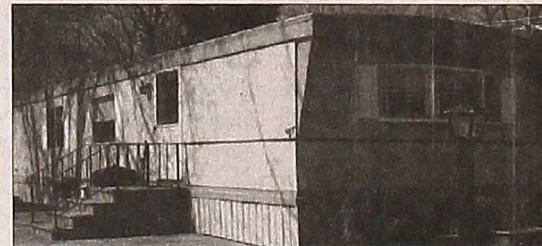
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Good guys

Goodfellows annual paper sale set for this weekend

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The 'good guys' of Belleville and Van Buren Township are back at it.

The Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows organization has started the 2007 effort to help families in need around the community. This year they will once again collect non-perishable canned food, toys and money to help hundreds of families.

Capt. Ken Brooks, of the Van Buren Public Safety Department and co-chair of the Goodfellows, said he's sure this year will be a busy one for the organization.

"It's hard times because of the economy and job losses in Michigan," he said. "We already started getting calls in September for registration."

That's why their goal and motto is 'No Child Without A Christmas.'

"I've done this for over 20 years now. My kids have been fortunate enough to have a good Christmas and I want that for others," said Brooks. "I'd hate to see a kid without that."

The volunteer organization is made up of members from the Van Buren Township police and fire departments, along with members from the City of Belleville police and fire departments who work

year-round. They help to supply items such as food, funds and gifts for families.

"The schools do a great job in collecting canned goods," said Brooks. "We also accept any unwrapped toy and cash donations because we typically spend about \$8,000-10,000 on toys. Any coats or clothes we prefer to go to the Salvation Army."

Gene Taylor, Belleville police chief and co-chair, said while it's geared toward the Belleville area, they will help others in need, too.

"We want to make a joyous holiday season for all families in need," he said. "The sad part is because of the economy, things have gotten worse."

"I can relate to my own family growing up because when the holidays came around we didn't always have toys every year, but we were fortunate to have food to eat. People

should be thankful for what they have because things could always be worse," he added.

Collections will continue until 5 p.m. on Dec. 7. The drop-off location points include: the Van Buren Township Police Department, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week; and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Belleville Police Department. Donations will then be distributed from 8 a.m. to noon on Dec. 15 at township hall.

"We do this to make sure everybody enjoys the holidays and no

child goes without a Christmas," said Pam Fleming, of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department.

The Goodfellows will also start to sell their newspaper from daylight until dusk on this weekend at various locations around the township and city.

Residents who want to receive assistance for the upcoming holiday can obtain a registration form at the township police department on Tyler Road. No phone registrations will be accepted. Applicants

must show proper identification and fill out the form no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 7.

"So far, we had 32 families just in one week, which means about 64 kids," said Fleming.

For more information about registration, drop-off locations or how to contribute, contact Fleming at (734) 699-8934.



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BEOWULF (PG-13)
11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

FRED CLAU (PG) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

BEE MOVIE (PG)
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SPORTS



NABO Cruiserweight Champ Johnathon Banks (right) gets a heavy glove in on opponent Derrick Brown on Thursday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. Banks won by unanimous decision. Photo by Jeff Novak



Andy Lee won his middleweight fight in a 1:13 over Marcus Thomas. Photo by Jeff Novak

Knock out Plymouth fights are success

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

It's not unusual to see a dominating, championship level, high impact physical performance from the athletes who compete in the Compuware Arena. But the action on Thursday had nothing to do with hockey or soccer.

North American Boxing Organization Cruiserweight Champion Jonathon Banks, from Ecorse and emerging Middleweight contender Andy Lee, of Ireland, kept their undefeated streaks alive as the Plymouth Township sports venue hosted a series of sanctioned amateur and professional boxing matches as part of Kronk's Ultimate Night of Boxing.

Emanuel Steward, the founder of Kronk's Gym in Detroit, brought the matches to the Plymouth Township facility. Steward, a hall of fame boxing trainer and promoter, said his motivation was to spur interest in suburban fans.

While the Compuware facility has never hosted a boxing match, Banks said the arena has an attractive appeal for many boxers and promoters.

"This is one of the best fight arena's I've been in: not too huge, not too small," said he. "You can hear everything the crowd is saying." Banks beat his competitor, Derrick Brown of New York, in a 12-round unanimous decision.

Andy Lee, who HBO boxing commentator Larry Merchant recently referred to as "million bucks," said the Plymouth crowd showed energy and respected the art of boxing.

"It's a beautiful thing when you can hear the crowd. It makes you feel good," said Lee. He received the loudest applause of the evening after he won his bout against Marcus Thomas of Barbados with a first round knockout.

Paul Mortiere, a Plymouth resident who brought his two teenage sons to event, said he enjoyed the boxing and hopes that Compuware will become a regular stop on the up-and-coming boxer circuit.

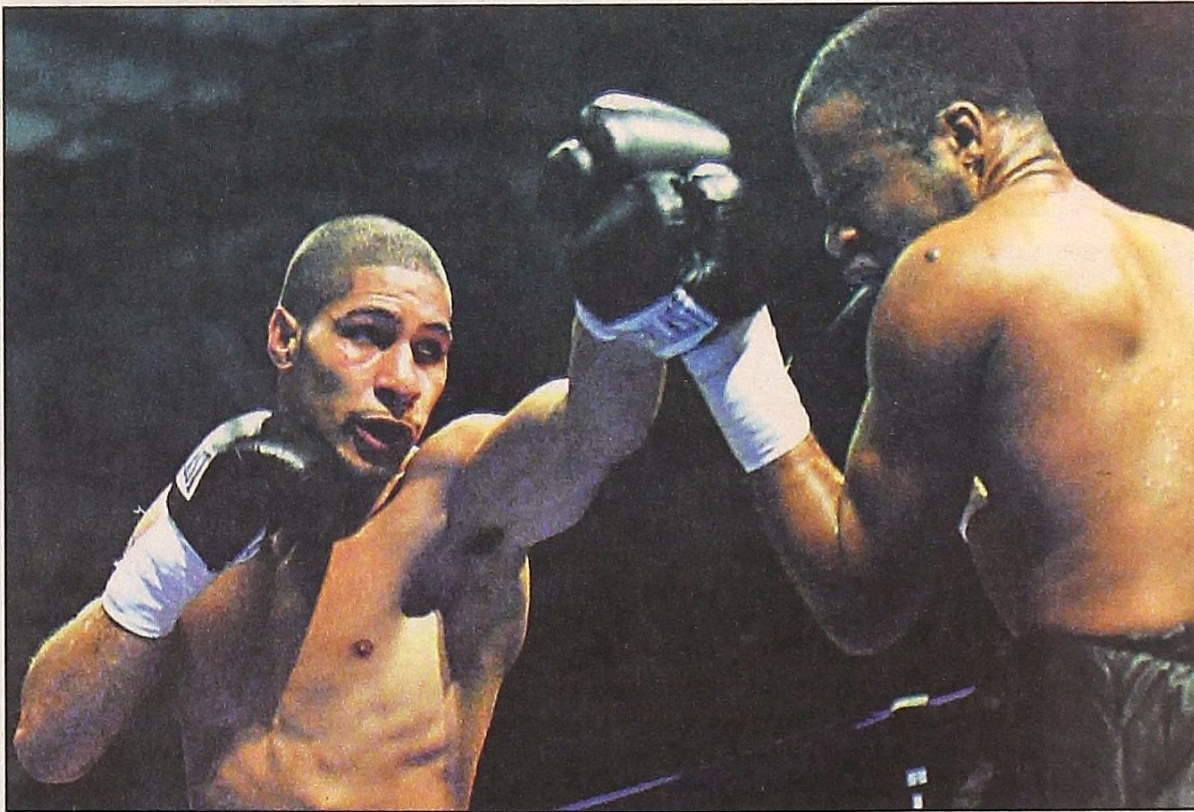
"I thought it was something different. We like going to different events," said Mortiere, who grew up in Detroit and has a familiarity with Kronk's boxers—which include former world champion Tommy Hearns.

Mortiere said, however, that he was disappointed at the number of people who showed up. Crowds fell below expectations with less than 400 people in attendance. The Compuware Arena holds 3,000 people.

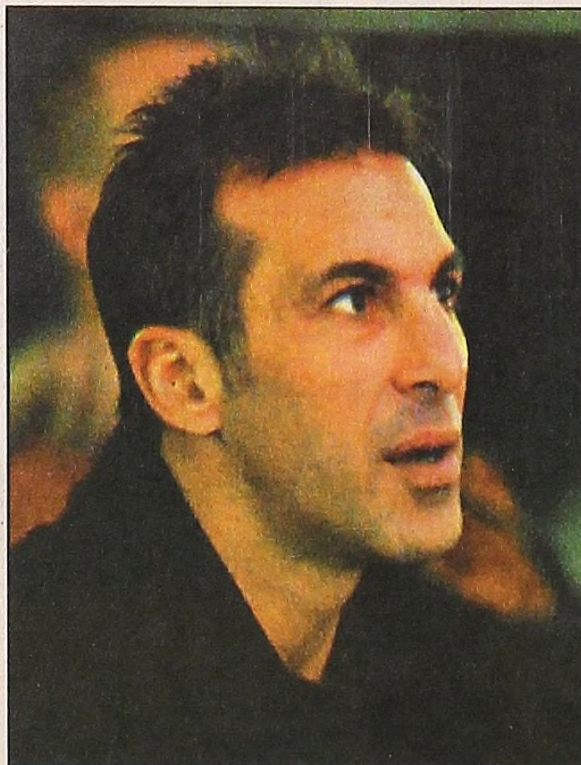
"I thought more people would be here," said Mortiere. "This is something good for the area," he said.

Even with the low turnout, Steward said he wants to come back the Plymouth area for future bouts.

"We probably will return. We were very happy with the fight tonight," Steward said.



Junior Welterweight Jason Cintron (left) improved his record to 7-0 when he beat Chris Hill in six rounds. Photo by Jeff Novak



Celebrities like Red Wing Chris Chelios was on hand for the boxing event on Thursday night. Photo by Jeff Novak



Boxing Hall of Fame trainer and manager Emanuel Steward was in the corner for all three of his pro fighters' bouts. Photo by Jeff Novak

SPORTS

Flight plan

Lady Eagles set for 07-08

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Forget that Romulus' new head girls basketball coach Yvette Harris has 22 years of Division I assistant and head coaching experience.

Forget that she was an assistant coach at the University of Michigan and the head coach of Central Connecticut State University or that she coached a short time at Ohio State University, too.

Forget that her assistant coach, Bill Kilgore, was a stand-out on the Michigan State University basketball team. And forget that her volunteer assistant coach Dena Head was named Ms. Basketball in 1988, won two national Championships with the University of Tennessee and was the first ever draft pick in the WNBA.

Harris insists that this is about the team and not the highly experienced coaching staff.

That should be easy. If there's one thing to focus on it's that Harris has a strong group of players returning from last year's district championship team.

"The number-one thing is the team," Harris said. "They're a great bunch kids and I'm having a great time coaching them. Everyday they come in and they work hard, they appreciate and they listen. This is a good staff and we have good kids."

A trio of seniors, consisting of Cristina Barnett, Jasmine Brown

and Christine Wells, lead a pack of Lady Eagles that is hungry for a better year.

In the 2006 campaign, Romulus had a sub-par regular season but came to life in the playoffs. The Lady Eagles upset a favored Belleville team in the district tournament. They won the district crown and were two points away from winning a regional championship.

It's a tall order but they think that they can do it regardless of what it might take.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work—harder than last year," Barnett said. "Our new coach is great. She brought new drills to help us work better. She basically has us do things that we never did before. She pushes us harder than last year and hopefully that will help us get to states."

"We need to be focused and work hard as a team every day," added Brown. "It's a new team and we have to get used to the new coaches and learn to work together. We're short but quick and I think that will be an advantage. Our main goals are to win the Mega Red conference and we're trying to go to states. I think we can do it."

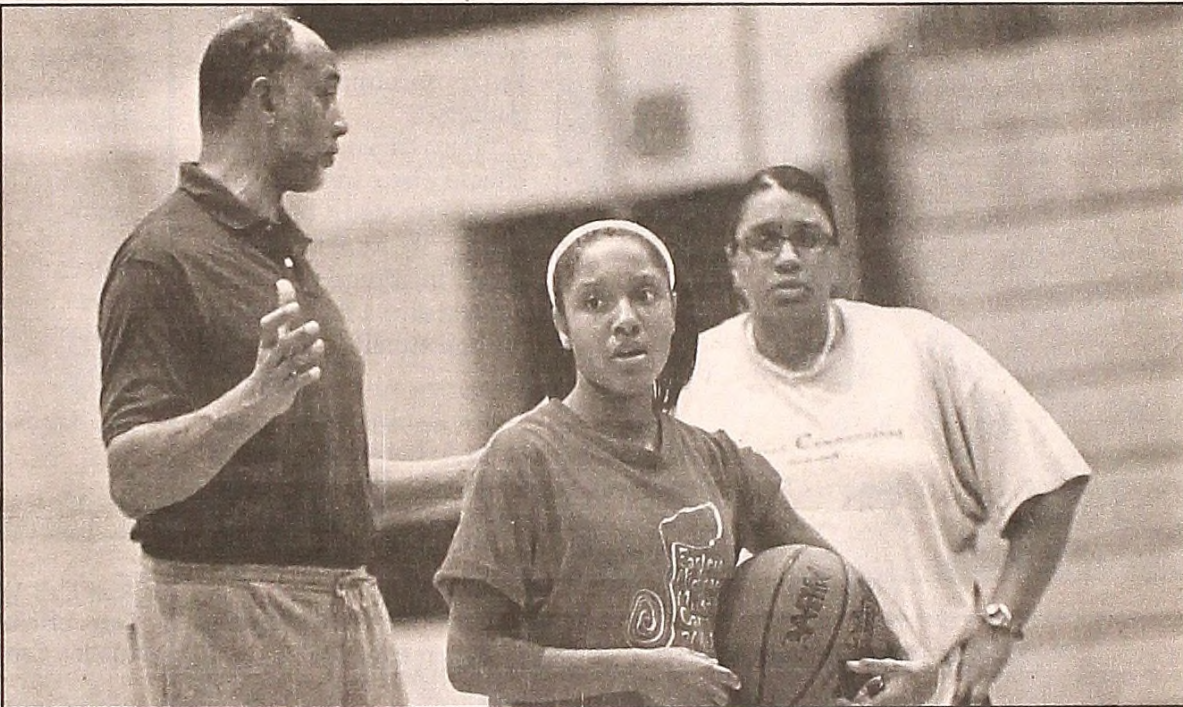
Chantel Payne is another returning senior. Others players that are back for the 2007-08 season include juniors Kanaya Williams, Tityona Lowe and Tanikka Coleman.

Juniors Christienne Linton and Britnee Bishop and sopho-

See **Eagles**, page 12



Romulus' new coach Yvette Harris works with her Lady Eagles last week in practice.



Senior point guard Cristina Barnett surveys the court at practice last week. Assistant coach Bill Kilgore and volunteer coach Dena Head watch.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-091-01-0006-000, also known as 43308 East Huron River Drive. The property is located on the north side of East Huron River Drive, between Martinsville Road and Haggerty Road.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren R-1C (Single Family Residential) Zoning District. The applicants, Michael & Audrey Hanzlian, are requesting a variance from the 10-foot and combined 25-foot side yard setback to construct an addition the existing house.

Approval of this application as submitted would require the following variance from the Zoning Ordinance standards:

ARTICLE XVII, SECTION 17.02, SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, MINIMUM YARD SPACE, SIDE YARD, R-1C Single Family Residential

- 10-foot side yard required
- 25-foot combined side yard required
- 5-foot side yard proposed
- 15.8-foot combined side yard proposed
- 5-foot and 9.2-foot combined side yard variance requested

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: November 15, 2007
Publish: November 21, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT USE OF FUNDS

On December 4, 2007, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Van Buren Township will hold the second of two public hearings in order to receive comments from residents of the community on the proposed use of the Township's 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant funds. The estimated funding level for the 2008-2009 CDBG Budget Year is \$135,000.

The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- To assist low and moderate-income persons
- To address slum or blight conditions
- To meet a particularly urgent community development need

The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road. The following projects are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees:

Minor repairs to Senior Services	
Kitchen area & undetermined	\$98,850
Public Services	
Youth Services	\$14,150
Senior Services	\$11,500
Planning / Administration	\$13,500
Total Funding	\$135,000

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: November 21, 2007

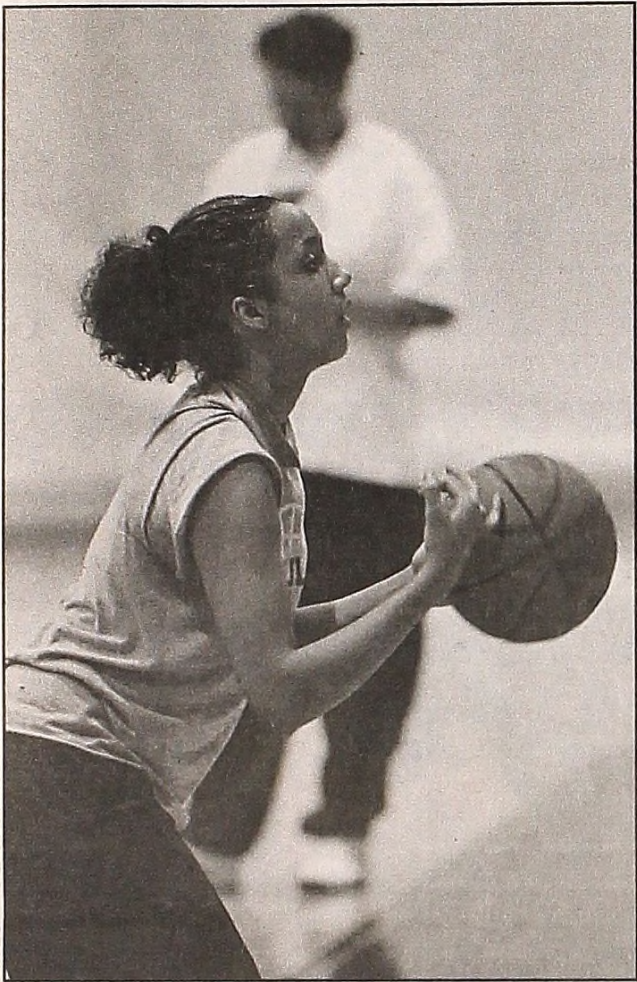
SPORTS

Eagles

FROM PAGE 11

mores Rola Emanuel and Rashida Harrison were brought up from the junior varsity squad. New to the roster this year are Ashley Moore, Jasmine Knowles, Erin Bragg and Diamond Aldson.

So far the reception as Harris as the new coach has been favorable among the



players.

“She breaks thing down more precisely and helps individuals and tells them what to work on,” Wells said. “Everybody will have to do their part and to have that mentality that they want to make it all the way to states. Everybody has a little something different that they can help the team out with.”

“She’s a really good coach,” Brown added. “She’s strict and shows us that she really cares. She works us real hard. I think that we will go real far with them.”

One of the highlights in the first week of practice is team speed. The Lady Eagles look to be lightning fast this year. That should open the offense and defense up.

“We’re going to play man-defense, in your face, aggressive defense—we work on that every day,” Harris said. “Eventually our goal is to be very aggressive defensively, to press teams full-court. We want to capitalize on our speed and quickness.

“Dena (Head) drew up an offense where we’re going to spread the court out,” she added. “We want to use our speed to spread the court out and give a lot of people the opportunity to take their

Senior Jasmine Brown readies for a shot during practice at Romulus High last week. Her and her teammates aim for another district title this year.

man one-on-one or we’ll take some pull-up jumpers.”

Romulus is in the tough Mega Red conference that pits the Eagles against teams like Inkster, Southgate, Belleville, Monroe and Allen Park. Harris, having never coached high school ball, admits she doesn’t know anything about any of the teams. She’s not worried, though.

“We’re just excited to play,” she said. “I’m always going to focus on us. I’m going

to tell them to execute our offense and play our defense. We’re definitely going to try to limit teams’ opportunity to start their offense. That’s going to be the biggest thing to utilize our quickness and to not let teams get their offense going. So, our focus will always be on us.”

Romulus opens the season at Taylor Kennedy at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 27. The Lady Eagles’ home opener is against Inkster at 7:30 pm on Friday, Nov. 30.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2007 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

Excused: John Barden

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

Pamela Morrison/Kersey, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-320

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held October 22, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Abstain - Bragg, Burcroff.
Motion Carried.

3A. Boy Scout Troop #872 Presentation-No Action Taken.

07-321

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Ricky Martin.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-322

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the Alexander J. Maxey family.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-323

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to schedule a public hearing to be held in the City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174, on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of receiving comments’ or suggestions regarding proposed projects for the Community Development Block Grant fiscal year 2008/2009.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-324

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 07-08-11, introduced at the Council Meeting held October 22, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 5, 2007.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

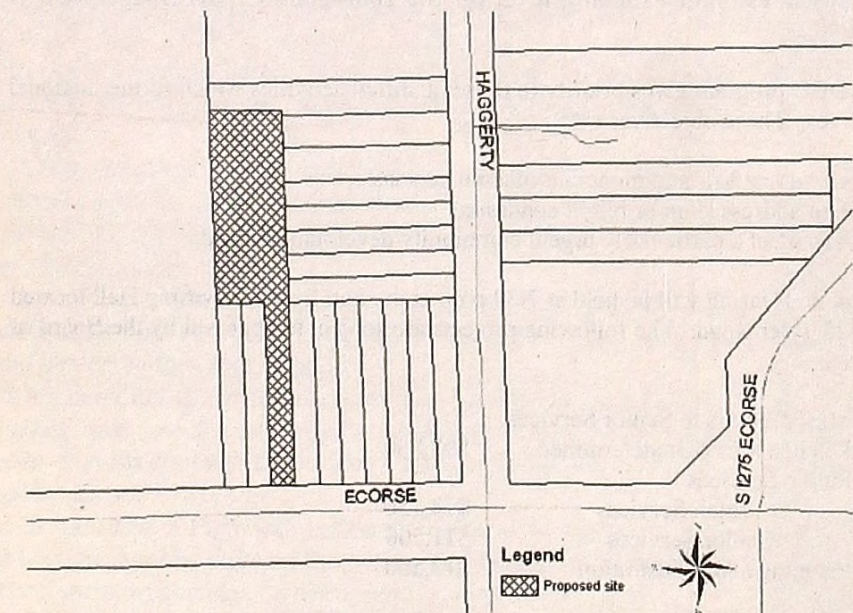
Publish: November 21, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday December 12, 2007** at 7:30 p.m. to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-008-0037-000 approximately 2.61 acres proposed to be rezoned from R-1B (Single Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial).

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



This property is located on the north side of Ecorse Road between Haggerty Road and Morton Taylor Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date of December 12, 2007.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: November 15, 2007
Publish: November 21, 2007

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- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
- 05. Personals/Announcements
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 30. Help Wanted

- 31. Help Wanted Sales
- 32. Help Wanted Drivers
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
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- 50. Pets & Supplies
- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Estate Sales
- 56. Flea Markets
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Garage and Yard Sales
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business and Office Equipment

- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Masonry / Brickwork
- 72. Cleaning Services
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Remodeling & Renovations
- 77. Recreation Vehicles

- 78. Hunting / Fishing
- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Real Estate
- 96. Houses for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent

- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Flats for Rent
- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business Property for Sale
- 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property
- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

BROTHERS, Antoinette M. "Toni", age 60 of Belleville, passed away Nov. 7, 2007. Dear mother of Melinda C. (James) Dotson, Taylor; grandmother of Robert L. Dotson; and sister of Michael (Karen) Zaher, Ann Arbor. She is also survived by her mother Angeline (Baziotes) Zaher. She was preceded in passing by her father, George L. Zaher; husband, Robert J. Brothers; and son Robert L. "Robi" Brothers. Toni was employed as a Para Professional with the Romulus Public School System for twenty years. Funeral service was held at Crane Funeral Home, Romulus, MI. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park. Memorials may be directed to St. Joseph mercy hospice, 806 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108-3351.



CROWDER, James Jr., age 77, died November 7, 2007. He was born December 18, 1929. He leaves to cherish his memory; eleven children, Michael, Cynthia, Valerie, Donella, James, Marilyn, Wanda, Robert, Brenda, Gary and Latonya (he was preceded in death by Vandy); twenty three grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren (with one preceding him in death); and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at Shiloh Christian Church, Romulus, MI with Pastor Nathan Fisher officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



MARTIN, Rickey Mack, age 54, died October 24, 2007. He was born March 28, 1953. He leaves to cherish his memory his parents, Henry and Alene Martin; brother, William Martin (Larrine); sisters, Linda Dew, Lisa Taylor and Angela Martin; nieces Courtney Martin, Megan Scott, Anjenette hood and Tiffany Wright; nephews, William Goodwin, Darnell Robinson, Eric martin, Jason Clayton, Gregory Scott Jr. and Andre Hood;

sister-in-law, Martha Martin; aunts, Francine Gibbs, Ernestine Plummer of Miss. And Minnie L. Pinder of NY; and a host of friends and family. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Reginald Poellnitz officiating. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery, Romulus, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



OVERMAN, Cora Lee, age 104, died November 4, 2007. She was born July 30, 1903. She leaves to remember her life shared; son, James (Taletha) Overman, Jr. and daughter, Savannah (Walter) Johnson; grandchildren, Joe Lee (Velma Jean) Overman, who was raised as a son, Harry Joe (Beverly) Overman, Valerie Overman, Cedric Overman, Denice Wynn, Ronald (Lolaen) Thomas, Adroin (Michelenia) Thomas and Eric Thomas; step-grandchildren, Hope and Monica Johnson; twenty great grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by nephews, Michael and Reginald Overman of Kansas, a host of cousins in Chicago and one special cousin, April Jones-Sigala of Kansas. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Oscar Carter officiating. Interment was at United memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

30. Help Wanted

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31. Sales Help Wanted

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Susan Willett
Journal Newspaper Group
P.O. Box 339
Wayne, MI 48184

34. Specialized Services

Need help looking for someone in your family tree? Want to know where great-grandpa was born? Local genealogy services available at very reasonable rates. Call 734-260-1069 for more info.

42. Health and Fitness

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Free medical supplies and equipment for your use. Walkers, canes, wheelchairs, crutches, to name just a few.

DO YOU HAVE MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH???
Donate your supplies outright to the "Medical Supply Sharing Ministry."

Whether you need supplies, or have supplies to donate, or have questions about the program, call Cathy at 734-699-5565

59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale. On December 20, 2007 at 12:30 PM, U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Road, Romulus, MI 48174 will sell the following units to highest bidder by cash. U-

Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. "All items in storage units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned."

Unit A22-Matt Forsyth
Unit D89-Michael Scott Schumaker
Unit E48-Donna Marie Grant
Unit A8-Interstate Painting: paint cans and shelves

On November 27, 2007, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1986 Mercury 4Dr
1MEBP893XGG609550
07-15856

1996 Ford ST
2FMDA5146TBB04472
07-17392

1994 Chevrolet VN
1GBEG25KXRF111550
07-17417

1994 Dodge 4Dr
2B3ED56T6RH122154
07-18194

1997 Mitsubishi 4Dr
JA3AY26A3VU001036
07-18248

1985 Chevrolet VN
1G8EG25L8F7195355
07-18327

1989 Honda 2Dr
JHMC5480KC055488
07-18662

1995 Honda 4Dr
JHMC5642SC006472
07-18766

1995 Mercury 4Dr
1MELM5343SG612859
07-19090

1991 Mazda 4Dr
1YVGD22B6M5182934
07-19134

1984 Chevrolet 2Dr
1G1AZ3796ER225082
07-19206

1994 Plymouth 2Dr
1P3AP24KXRN187612
07-19218

1991 Honda 2Dr
1HGCB7263MA023274
07-19712

1993 Chevrolet 4Dr
2G1WL54T8P9212219
07-19727

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and Storage, 42350 Van Born Rd., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1994 Ford ST
1FMDU34X4RUA57754
07-17804

1992 Mercury 4Dr
2MECM75W1NX671062
07-18751

1985 Oldsmobile 2Dr
1G3NT27U0FM221245
07-19665

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

61. Misc. Items

Queen Size Plush Orthopedic Pillow Top Mattress Set
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248-669-6455

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Mattress Set
NEW in Bag
Can Deliver
(734) 328-00390

\$75 QUEEN PILLOWTOP
Mattress set
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Can Deliver
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Misc Items for Sale
Kids Climber Playset,
Childs Ride In Electric Car,
Large Comic Book Collection,
Refrigerator, Exercise Equip,
Misc Furniture
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PIONEER POLE BLDGS.
30'x40'x10', \$8590.00.
12'x10' All Metal Slider, 36" Entrance, 12 Colors, 2x6 Trusses, Material And Labor, Free Quotes, #1 Company In Michigan
1-800-292-0679.

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87. Rooms For Rent

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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

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FOOD

This Thanksgiving Be Food Safe

USDA Lists Top 5 Turkey Day Tips

FROM START TO FINISH

Thawing Your Turkey

It is unsafe to thaw a frozen turkey at room temperature. Two safe ways to thaw your turkey are in the refrigerator or in cold water. See the chart below for estimated thawing times. Whether you have a frozen or a fresh turkey, cook it within 1 or 2 days of purchase or after thawing.

In the Refrigerator (40 °F or below)
Allow approximately 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds.

4 to 12 pounds	1 to 3 days
12 to 16 pounds	3 to 4 days
16 to 20 pounds	4 to 5 days
20 to 24 pounds	5 to 6 days

Keep the turkey in its original wrapper. Place it on a tray or in a pan to catch any juices that may leak. A thawed turkey can remain in the refrigerator for 1 to 2 days. If necessary, a turkey that has been properly thawed in the refrigerator may be refrozen.



In Cold Water

Allow approximately 30 minutes per pound.

4 to 12 pounds	2 to 6 hours
12 to 16 pounds	6 to 8 hours
16 to 20 pounds	8 to 10 hours
20 to 24 pounds	10 to 12 hours

Wrap your turkey securely, making sure the water is not able to leak through the wrapping. Submerge your wrapped turkey in cold tap water. Change the water every 30 minutes. Cook the turkey immediately after it is thawed. Do not refreeze.

Cook It Your Way!

No matter which method you use to cook your turkey, use a food thermometer to insure that your turkey and stuffing are cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F. Check the internal temperature in the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook turkey to higher temperatures.

These times are approximate and should always be used in conjunction with a properly placed thermometer.

Approximate Whole Turkey Cooking Times

Times for fresh or thawed turkey in a preheated 325 °F oven

Weight	Unstuffed Timing	Stuffed Timing
8 to 12 pounds	2 3/4 to 3 hours	3 to 3 1/2 hours
12 to 14 pounds	3 to 3 3/4 hours	3 1/2 to 4 hours
14 to 18 pounds	3 3/4 to 4 1/4 hours	4 to 4 1/4 hours
18 to 20 pounds	4 1/4 to 4 1/2 hours	4 1/4 to 4 3/4 hours
20 to 24 pounds	4 1/2 to 5 hours	4 3/4 to 5 1/4 hours

Electric Roaster Oven

Generally, the cooking time and oven temperature setting are the same as for conventional cooking. Preheat the oven to at least 325 °F. Place the turkey on the roaster oven rack or other meat rack so the turkey is raised out of the juices that collect in the bottom of the oven liner. Leave the lid on throughout cooking, removing it as little as possible to avoid slowing the cooking process. Always check the roaster oven's use and care manual for the manufacturer's recommended temperature setting and time.

Grilling a Turkey

Outdoor cooking of a big bird for the holiday meal is becoming a popular cooking method. During grilling, a turkey cooks by indirect heat in an outdoor covered gas or charcoal grill, and a pan of water is placed beneath the grilling surface to catch the fat and juices that drip from the turkey as it cooks. Cooking is done by the hot, smoky, steamy air.

Turkeys that are 16 pounds or less are the recommended size for safe grilling. A larger turkey remains in the "Danger Zone" — between 40 and 140 °F — too long. Do not stuff the turkey. Because cooking is at a low temperature, it can take too long for the temperature of the stuffing to reach 165 °F. Also, smoked stuffing has an undesirable flavor.



More Ways to Cook a Turkey

Deep fat frying, smoking, using an oven cooking bag, roasting in aluminum foil, microwaving, using a pressure cooker, and cooking a frozen turkey without thawing it first are other ways to get the big bird done. For information about these methods, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline or read the publication "Turkey: Alternate Routes to the Table" at www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Turkey_Alt_Routes/index.asp.

FAMILY FEATURES

What government agency is open on Thanksgiving Day? The United States Department of Agriculture on the job to protect public health through food safety. For more than 20 years, the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline has helped Turkey Day cooks weather a variety of culinary storms and travails. In recent years, the Hotline has developed the innovative "Ask Karen" feature (AskKaren.gov) on the Web that allows consumers to type questions online and receive an immediate reply from USDA's virtual representative 24 hours a day.

These efforts are just part of a long-running campaign by USDA's food safety educators to teach Americans about the dangers of food-borne illness and the importance of adopting safe cooking and food handling behaviors. The statistics show that approximately 5,000 Americans will die each year due to a foodborne illness — that's almost 14 people a day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Thanksgiving dinner is an ideal time to put food safety tips into practice because it is the most challenging for average American consumers to cook. Food safety considerations are often overlooked, especially since there may be several cooks preparing food for the celebration. "Food that is mishandled can cause very serious consequences for all, especially for "at-risk" groups — infants, young children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems."

"Thanksgiving dinner can be a challenging meal to prepare because it is so time-consuming and complex," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond. "When you factor in thawing the turkey, cooking the turkey, preparing side dishes and desserts — and making sure guests are accounted for — it is easy to forget that food safety is the most important ingredient to making the meal an enjoyable one."

5 Tips for a Safe Thanksgiving Meal

- 1. Keep Everything Clean** — Keep hands and surfaces clean. Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food. Run cutting boards and utensils through the dishwasher or wash them in hot soapy water after each use. Keep countertops clean by washing with hot soapy water after preparing food.
- 2. Don't Cross Contaminate** —When you prepare Thanksgiving dinner, keep the raw turkey away from vegetables and side dishes. Consider using one cutting board for fresh produce and bread and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood. Washing the cutting board with hot, soapy water after each use; then rinse with clear water and air dry or pat dry with clean paper towels.
- 3. Cook the Turkey and Stuffing to a Safe Temperature** — Regardless of the method of cooking, you can't tell if the bird is done by the color of the cooked poultry. The only way to know for sure if the turkey is safely cooked is to use a food thermometer. Every part of the turkey and the center of the stuffing should reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook poultry to higher temperatures.
- 4. Store Leftovers Safely** — Discard any turkey, stuffing, side dishes and gravy left out at room temperature longer than 2 hours. Divide leftovers into smaller portions, and refrigerate them in covered, shallow containers for quicker cooling. Be sure to consume refrigerated turkey, stuffing, side dishes and gravy within 3 to 4 days or freeze the leftovers for later use.
- 5. Keep Egg-rich Desserts Chilled** — Pumpkin pie is as much a staple of the holiday meal as the turkey. Foods made with eggs and milk, such as pumpkin pie, must first be safely baked to a minimum internal temperature of 160 °F. Then, they must be refrigerated after baking. Eggs and milk have high protein and moisture content; when foods baked with these products are left at room temperature, conditions are ripe for bacteria to multiply.



Where to Get Information

USDA features AskKaren.gov, a Web site where you can ask and receive answers to your food safety questions 24 hours a day from the Food Safety and Inspection Service's virtual representative.

The USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline is staffed Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Time, year-round. It will also be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern Time on Thanksgiving Day. Contact the Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854).

"Let's Talk Turkey" pamphlet is available at www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Lets_Talk_Turkey.pdf.

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